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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2026 Volume III: Asian American History and the Making of the U.S. Immigration System

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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The curriculum unit “Interactive Culture: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month for K to 5” is a set of lessons designed to give students a broader understanding of the cultures and ethnicities within Asia and the Pacific Islands. The unit does this by introducing students to some elements of culture, such as clothing, food, language, the arts, and some new-to-them well-known facts via postcards as primary source documents. Their growing knowledge of Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures culminates into a Luau celebration, as Hawai’i has historically been a crossroads for Asian immigrants and Pacific Islanders. The struggles of Asian American immigrants and Pacific Islander communities are explained for teacher background knowledge and understanding in order to guide students to appreciate other cultures and not appropriate nor generalize. All this equates to teachers utilizing Culturally Responsive Teaching. Students will gain knowledge, skills, and understanding as they participate in lessons that engage and excite them about a diverse set of ethnicities and cultures.

(Developed for Digital Literacy and Schoolwide Celebration, grades K-5; recommended for Social Studies, grades K-12; World History, grades 9-12; and Geography, grades 3-5)

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